



# Montgomery County Council

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**For Immediate Release**

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**April 10, 2001**

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Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 or Jean Arthur 240-777-7934

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*Council reserves right to decide on best option after facts are in...*

## **COUNCIL TO STATE: MOVE AHEAD ON PLANNING FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN SHADY GROVE AREA & GEORGIA AVENUE**

The Montgomery County Council today requested that the Maryland State Highway Administration initiate a project planning study as soon as possible to improve transportation options in the corridor between the Shady Grove area and the Georgia Avenue corridor near Norbeck Road.

In a letter to state transportation secretary John Porcari, the Council made clear that it would review the results of the first stage of the project planning study -- as well as the findings and recommendations of the Planning Board's Transportation Policy Report (TPR) and the Upper Rock Creek Master Plan -- before making any decision about its support for any single specific option. Given the complexity of the project, State Highway's initial alternatives would not be available until 2003, by which time Council will have reviewed the Planning Board's work.

"By starting State planning now, we save two years off the time we would need to make capacity improvements versus waiting until these other studies are finished," said Councilmember Michael Subin. "Let's move forward with efforts to provide congestion relief in this corridor at the same time that we consult with the neighborhoods involved to get their feedback."

"It is essential that we review the results of the Transportation Policy Report before we move ahead on any option that's been proposed," said Council President Blair Ewing.

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*Letter from Council President Blair Ewing to state DOT secretary John Porcari attached.*